Tara Sklenar

November 20, 2008

Liz Tinelli

Critical commentary

**Quotes From:**

**Lee:**

1. “I believe the best literature helps us wrestle with the conundrums of being human and, as is the case with life itself, offers no simple, easily predictable solutions.” (pg. 111)
2. “In terms of teacher content knowledge, the issues are whether the teacher knows how to design instruction in ways that will facilitate students grappling with such questions; how to tap what students already know and value as a way of making public for them that posing such questions is important and useful; how to hear with understanding the range of arguable responses that students might come up with and how to respond to that range, and why I further argue that helping students see the relevance and importance of such questions requires much more than simply telling them they should tackle such a problem or simply adding the question to a worksheet. (pg. 119)

**Morell:**

1. “In any empowering theory of writing instruction, students still need to understand the mechanics and use of language, so there is a relation between academic literacies and critical literacies. However, academic writing is promoted through participation in meaningful communities of practice. (pg. 86)

**Lankshear and Knobel:**

1. “Learning is mobile in terms of space, it happens in the workplace, at home, and at places of leisure; it is mobile between different areas of life, it may relate to work demands, self-improvement, or leisure; and it is mobile with respect to time, it happens at different times during the day, on working day or on weekends.” (pg. 187)
2. “Since schools have always acted largely as consumers of knowledge and information. From text books, to material available on the Internet, information flows into schools far outweigh the information that flows out. The relationships that schools have with the world outside is therefore largely framed by their consumption of information and knowledge. (pg. 188)

**Discussion:**

Something I feel very strongly about that seemed to also be important in the readings was the idea that teachers need to go that extra mile to keep their children’s needs and wants in mind when incorporating ideas into learning. We must learn how to take literacies that are familiar to the student and incorporate them into the learning processes in our classrooms. Is this something that is easy? No it is not-for example blogging-this is something that I haven’t even learned how to do very well yet. While doing the readings for Lanksher and Knobel I was conflicted over the thought of progressing technology and how fast the advancement is. I don’t know how you can use technology and incorporate it into your classroom teachings if you don’t know what you are doing to begin with.

**Questions:**

1. How can a teacher be more flexible and understanding in her classroom and get to know each student and the life circumstances that they bring with them to the classroom? Especially for high school students?
2. How can teachers become more “up-to-date” with technology and include this in their lesson plans and teaching?
3. Does literacy designate who we are as individuals?
4. Are reading and writing literacies similar? If so how?